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THE

TREATMENT

OF

PRISONERS OF WAR IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY

DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE WAR.

LONDON:
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THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE WAR.

Section I.—INTRODUCTION.

The evidence upon which this paper is based.—The evidence upon which the facts contained in this paper are based is contained in a recently published Parliamentary Paper (Miscellaneous No. 7, 1915, cd. 7817).* The principal rules of International Law which relate to the treatment of prisoners of war are to be found in the annex to the Convention concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, which was signed at the Hague on October 18th, 1907, and to which both Great Britain and Germany are parties.† No reference has been made to the many letters and accounts describing the conditions of internment camps in Germany, which have been published in the press of all countries. It is certain that many of them are authentic, and that many of the terrible charges contained in them must be true. But as it is impossible to select from these accounts only such as are reliable, no charges are here made and no facts are stated which cannot be found in the Parliamentary Paper.

The most important documents relating to the treatment of prisoners of war.—That Paper consists of correspondence between the British Government and the United States Ambassador in London concerning the treatment of prisoners of war and interned civilians in Great Britain and Germany respectively. It is, of course, an official publication of the British Government, and all allegations made in it have been properly verified. It deals with a variety of matters connected with prisoners of war; but the most important documents relating to their actual treatment and condition are the following:—

(*a*) Relating to German prisoners interned in Great Britain.

1. A despatch of Sir E. Grey to Mr. Page (the United States Ambassador in London) dated September 24th, 1914.‡
2. A despatch of Sir E. Grey to Mr. Page, dated October 1st, 1914.§
3. A despatch of Sir E. Grey to Mr. Page, dated December 2nd, 1914.‖

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* Referred to in this paper as "P.P."
† Referred to in this paper as "The Hague Regulations."
‡ P.P. No. 9, p. 4.
§ P.P. No. 11, p. 6.
‖ P.P. No. 32, p. 21.

4. A similar despatch of December 14th, 1914, enclosing a detailed memorandum upon the treatment of prisoners of war and interned civilians in Great Britain.*
5. A report made by Mr. Chandler Hale, of the United States Embassy, from observations made by him at the camp in the Isle of Man.†
6. A further memorandum communicated by the British Foreign Office to Mr. Page on February 3rd, 1915.‡

(*b*) Relating to British prisoners interned in Germany.

1. A despatch of Mr. Gerard (the United States Ambassador at Berlin) to Mr. Page, dated October 2nd, 1914.§
2. A report made by the American Consul-General at Berlin from observations made on October 15-17, 1914.‖
3. A memorandum issued by the German Government during October, 1914, concerning the treatment of prisoners of war.¶
4. A despatch from the American Consul at Leipzig, dated the 16th November, 1914.**
5. A statement made by a Russian medical officer at the British Embassy at Petrograd on the 8th December, 1914.††
6. A report made by Major Vandeleur of the 1st Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), attached to the Cheshire Regiment, in December, 1914.‡‡
7. A statement made by an American citizen living at Havre on the 20th December, 1914.§§
8. An article by an American citizen.‖‖
9. A report by a French priest.¶¶
10. A letter communicated by the Speaker of the House of Commons.***
11. A letter communicated by Lord R. Cecil.†††
12. A statement by Surgeon-General Zviargintsef to the British Ambassador at Petrograd, on the 17th December, 1914.‡‡‡
13. An account furnished by a prisoner at Ruhleben, and dated the 29th December, 1914.§§§
14. A despatch of Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page, dated the 23rd January, 1915.‖‖‖
15. A German memorandum concerning the conditions prevailing at Ruhleben, dated the 16th February, 1915.¶¶¶
16. A despatch of Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page, dated the 23rd February, 1915.****

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* P.P. No. 36, p. 22 and encl. p. 23.
‡ P.P. No. 75 and encl. p. 54.
‖ P.P. No. 20, encl. 1, 2, 3, p. 11.
** P.P. No. 30, encl. p. 19.
‡‡ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, 2, p. 30.
‖‖ P.P. No. 44, encl. 4, p. 34.
*** P.P. No. 44, p. 29.
‡‡‡ P.P. No. 54, p. 40.
‖‖‖ P.P. No. 69, encl. p. 50.
**** P.P. No. 95, encl. p. 65.

† P.P. No. 47, p. 36.
§ P.P. No. 15, encl. p. 8.
¶ P.P. No. 20, encl. 4, p. 14.
†† P.P. No. 39, encl. p. 26.
§§ P.P. No. 44, encl. 3, p. 34.
¶¶ P.P. No. 44, p. 29.
††† P.P. No. 44, p. 29.
§§§ P.P. No. 63, encl. 1, 2, p. 46.
¶¶¶ P.P. No. 93, encl. 2, p. 63.

17. A German memorandum concerning the principles observed in the treatment of prisoners of war, dated the 28th February, 1915.*
18. A statement by Messrs. Bradshaw and Coyne to the British Home Office on the 18th March, 1915.†

It will be seen that the evidence all relates to the period between the outbreak of war and March of the present year.

The reliability of the evidence.—A very large part of this evidence has been supplied by officers of the United States Diplomatic Service, who have done so much to improve the lot of prisoners of war in Germany, and whose accuracy and veracity are above question. The remaining reports and statements are either official publications of the respective Governments, or records made by persons whose testimony is entitled to be respected and believed.

Different conditions prevail in different camps.—The evidence reveals that in Germany different conditions have prevailed in the different internment camps.‡ For instance, at the camp at Merseburg, near Leipzig, the treatment of prisoners was reported to be satisfactory. The American Consul at Leipzig, writing on the 16th November, 1914, said: "The result of my observation regarding the welfare and humane treatment of the prisoners at large was a surprise to me."§ There were, however, very few British prisoners at this camp.‖ At Altdamm, near Stettin, the treatment of the prisoners, of whom 600 were British, appeared to the American Consul at Stettin to be satisfactory on the whole. Writing on the 31st December, 1914, he reported as follows:—¶

"I was permitted to converse freely with the British soldiers and spoke to a number of them. Upon the whole they had little to complain of, and agreed that the treatment received was as good as could be expected. The following complaints were made, however:—

"Several prisoners stated that some of the men composing the guards (Landsturm) were at times unnecessarily rough. One British sergeant said that on one occasion he was knocked down by one of the guards. The officers, on the other hand, treat the prisoners with consideration.

"Several prisoners said that the food was insufficient as to quantity.

"Complaint was made that the men had only one blanket each.

"Others complained that they had only one suit of underwear.

"Others mentioned that a bread bag should be given them in which to keep the loaf of bread which is issued them. . . .

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* P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 79.

† P.P. No. 109, p. 81.

‡ *cp.* P.P. No. 44, encl. 3, p. 34, and Major Vandeleur's notes, P.P. No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33. The variation is probably due to the fact that camp commanders have a discretion in the settlement of details.

§ P.P. No. 30, encl. p. 19.

‖ *ib.*, "Of the 10,000 prisoners interned, about 7,000 are Frenchmen, the remainder being Russians, British, Bedouins, and negroes."

¶ P.P. No. 58, encl. 2, p. 42.

"It appears to me that every effort is being made to treat the prisoners of war as humanely as possible in the two camps I visited. Dry and warm shelter is provided, the food is simple and perhaps monotonous, but of good material and well prepared, sanitary arrangements are good, and the health of the men is carefully looked after.

"The officers in charge of the camps were most courteous and offered me every opportunity for a thorough inspection."

But the conditions at the camps at Merseburg and Altdamm do not appear to be typical of the prevailing conditions, at least where British prisoners are concerned. As early as the 2nd October the United States Ambassador at Berlin wrote that the care of British prisoners of war "is a matter which requires the immediate attention of the British Government."*

The United States Consul-General at Berlin heard on the 16th October that information regarding the treatment of non-commissioned officers and men of the British Army who are prisoners of war in other camps was anxiously awaited at Torgau. "Rumours of their exposure to the elements, their starvation and their treatment, are rampant all along the line."† Major Vandeleur reported in December that in his opinion "something should be urgently done to try to ameliorate the lot of the British soldier who is a prisoner in Germany."‡ Sir E. Grey, in a despatch to the United States Ambassador in London dated the 26th December, stated that:

"Information regarding the bad treatment to which British prisoners of war in particular in Germany are being subjected, reaches His Majesty's Government from a variety of sources.

. . .

"A French priest, who has returned to Rome from Minden, where a number of British prisoners of war were confined, is reported to have given an account of the cruelties practised upon the British prisoners by their guards. While 'the French prisoners were very well treated, and the Russians not so badly,' the British were singled out for ill-treatment. According to the French priest, 'the German soldiers kick the British prisoners in the stomach, and break their guns over their backs; they force them to sleep out in marshy places, so that many are now consumptive. The British are almost starved, and such have been their tortures that thirty of them asked to be shot.'

"A letter communicated by the Speaker of the House of Commons to Mr. Acland from a Frenchman well known to him and entirely trustworthy, corroborates the latter part of the above statement, saying that 'at Minden for a long time the prisoners were camped on marshy ground with no shelter.' The statement is further corroborated in its entirety by French hospital assistants who have been prisoners of war at Minden

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* P.P. No. 15, encl. p. 8.
† P.P. No. 20, encl. 3, p. 14.
‡ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 33.

and at Munster. According to a letter communicated by Lord R. Cecil, the officers at Sennelager are not allowed to write, and many of them are very ill for want of food and clothing. . . .

" Speaking generally, the reports of ill-treatment to which I have the honour to draw your Excellency's attention, corroborated as this is from so many independent sources, show, as I am sure your Excellency will agree, that the German authorities are in many cases entirely neglecting the provisions of the articles dealing with the treatment of prisoners of war. His Majesty's Government feel bound, therefore, to protest in the strongest manner against the inhuman treatment to which it is unfortunately evident that many of the British prisoners of war in Germany are being subjected, and I shall be grateful if your Excellency will cause this protest to reach the German Government with as little delay as possible. His Majesty's Government are all the more concerned by the reports which have reached them of the manner in which British prisoners of war in Germany have been singled out for ill-treatment, in that they have, on their part, interpreted the above-mentioned provisions of the Hague Convention in a liberal spirit, and have, as your Excellency is aware, communicated to the German Government a full statement of the treatment shown to German prisoners of war in the United Kingdom."*

In a later despatch of February, 1915, Sir E. Grey reports that, according to information from a reliable source, the conditions prevailing at Burg, near Magdeburg, are extremely unsatisfactory.

" It is reported that there are twenty-three British officers . . . living in one room—a garret—under the roof. . . . The prisoners are stated to be given very little food, and to be all herded together without light or warmth, their condition being such that they are apparently being gradually starved to death."†

In January the United States Ambassador at Berlin stated that:

" At present there are a good many cases of destitution among the British civil prisoners at Ruhleben, and that these are increasing weekly."‡

In March Sir E. Grey received information from a prominent official of the British Red Cross Society, corroborated from other sources, that British prisoners in Germany were being kept very short of food—if not starved, and he expresses the fear that conditions may become worse rather than better.§

Certain features concealed from visitors.—There is also evidence that certain features of the internment camps have been concealed from visitors by the German authorities. With reference to three detained British medical officers, " The military authorities remarked that they have had considerable difficulty with these men, and

* P.P. No. 44, p. 29.
† P.P. No. 86, p. 59.
‡ P.P. No. 69, encl. p. 50.
§ P.P. No. 111, p. 82.

requested the Counsellor of the Embassy not to speak with them."* A prisoner interned at Ruhleben wrote in December that:—

> " Some of the inmates have managed to get their box† up comfortably, much to the surprise of the inmates of other barracks, where all attempts at ' luxury ' were ruthlessly put down. The reason became apparent when a representative of the American Embassy visited the camp and was shown round. He was shown the comfortable stable, and the ten others, which were outwardly just the same, were pointed out to him, so we can imagine what sort of report he made. If the Ambassador wants to find out the condition of this camp he should see it by himself without a conductor, and speak to the prisoners himself, to those whom he himself chooses to speak to, and alone, and not in the presence of an officer. We cannot communicate with him in writing."‡

On the other hand, a visit from the American Embassy has sometimes led to an improvement. It is reported that at this camp—

> " Since the 7th March a very important change has taken place in the food supplied to the prisoners; thanks to investigations by Rittmeister von Müller, the caterer has been dispensed with. It is believed in the camp that the United States authorities prompted these investigations."§

Specially harsh treatment reserved for British prisoners.—There is evidence that British prisoners have been deliberately selected for special and avoidable hardships. It appears that Germany is venting the hate, inspired by the grasp of British Sea Power, upon captured and wounded soldiers.|| In December a Russian medical officer who had returned from detention at Dänholm bei Stralsund, reported that—

> " The British officers are not so well treated as the Russian officers. They are classed among the less-educated Russians, who speak no language other than Russian, so that they cannot talk. The Russians are allowed to buy books, but the British officers are not allowed to do so. The German lieutenant in charge is openly insulting and hostile towards the British prisoners."¶

This statement was subsequently confirmed by Surgeon-General Zviargintsef.**

Major Vandeleur†† reports that during his journey as a prisoner to Crefeld, in October the British prisoners were told that none of the potato soup was for them, but that if any was left over after the French had been fed, they should get what remained; he adds that this is in accordance with the general treatment of British prisoners

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* P.P. No. 20, encl. p. 11.

† This refers to a loose box in a stable.

‡ P.P. No. 63, encl. 2, p. 48.

§ P.P. No. 109, p. 81.

|| German official memorandum of February 16: " In face of the attempts of (the British) Government to starve the German people, the bill of fare offered is above all criticism." (P.P. No. 93, encl. 2, p. 63.

¶ P.P. N. 39, encl. p. 26.

** 17th December. P.P. No. 54, p. 40.

†† P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 31.

by the Germans, " who always endeavour to attend to our necessities last, and to put us to as much inconvenience and ill-treatment as possible." Major Vandeleur expresses the opinion that, as French officers were treated quite differently, this brutal treatment was deliberately arranged with the object of making the British appear as despicable as possible; and states as a fact that:

> " The British soldiers are used solely for all menial duties and dirty work connected with the camps, such as cleaning out latrines and such-like; also every other unpleasant fatigue duty. In connection with this the French orderlies at Crefeld stated to me that they were very sorry indeed to see the British soldiers treated in such an ignoble and disgraceful manner, being in fact more like slaves, the idea being to create ill-feeling between French and British soldiers by this means."*

In one camp all the Irishmen were collected and harangued by the Commandant, who told them that the Emperor was aware of the down-trodden state of Ireland, and now wished that the Irishmen should be placed in a separate camp, where they would be better fed, and treated differently from the Englishmen.† The motive is evident; but the attempt of course signally failed. The Irishmen refused to accept better treatment than their compatriots.

Section II.—THE TREATMENT BY GERMANY OF CAPTURED SOLDIERS AFTER CAPTURE AND BEFORE INTERNMENT.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 4 of the Hague Regulations provides that—

> " Prisoners of war are in the power of the hostile Government, but not of the individuals or corps who capture them. They must be humanely treated."

The German practice.—Germany, by her treatment of prisoners on the journey from the place of capture to the internment camp, has in many cases violated the rules of International Law. According to a memorandum enclosed in a report made by the American Consul-General at Berlin during October last,

> " There is authentic evidence of many instances of cruelty to officers, prisoners of war, on their way to Torgau, both from officers, soldiers, members of the Red Cross, and civilians."‡

Yet members of the Red Cross are enlisted in the cause of humanity. There is worse to record:

> " Evidence collected at Crefeld by the officers there shows that officers and men have been killed after capture."§

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* P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 33. † P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 33.

‡ This report is contained in a despatch to the United States Ambassador in London of October 16, P.P. No. 20, encl. 3, p. 13.

§ P.P. No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33.

Major Vandeleur has supplied a detailed account of his own journey from La Bassée to Crefeld. It is impossible not to be impressed by the evident sincerity and veracity of this report. Major Vandeleur, of the 1st Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), attached to the Cheshire Regiment, was taken prisoner near La Bassée in October. After his arrival at Crefeld, the German authorities refused to allow him to communicate with the American Ambassador at Berlin.

He had written soon after his internment to the Prisoners' Help Society at Berlin, and received a letter in reply from Mr. Gerard on the 3rd November, in which he was asked to furnish a complete roll of the British prisoners. He replied on the 5th November enclosing the roll, and thanking the Ambassador for his interest. On the 6th December this letter was returned to Major Vandeleur by the commandant, who stated that he had orders to prevent its being delivered. A further letter from Mr. Gerard was handed to Major Vandeleur a few days after this, which had been addressed by Mr. Gerard to the commandant of the camp, again asking for a complete list of prisoners. Major Vandeleur was asked by the commandant to prepare the list, which he at once did, but the list was handed back to him a few days later, with the statement that it would not be sent.*

Major Vandeleur's Report.—Major Vandeleur's report is of such painful interest that it is here set out in full.†

"I was taken prisoner on the 13th October, 1914, close to La Bassée in France by the Prussian Guard Cavalry. I myself, personally, was treated well by this corps, and was given food and shelter, but the other officers and men who were in charge of the same guard were not treated so well, they being given no food and confined in a church until the morning. I am sure that the treatment which I received was with the hope of getting information out of me. I was bombarded with numberless enquiries, especially with regard to the alleged use by the British of dum-dum bullets, and as to the state of the British army.

"On the morning of the 14th, I was fallen in with four other British officers and about 200 men, and was marched to Lens. Here a halt was made, and I pointed out that as I was wounded in the leg I could not march any further. I was then taken on to Douay in a motor, the remainder of the prisoners following by road (a considerable distance).

"At Douay I was detained on the square in front of the Hôtel de Ville with a sentry over me, and was subjected to continual abuse and revilement. On the arrival of the other prisoners we were all confined in a large shed for the night. No food, except a little provided by the French Red Cross Society, was given, also no straw, and we spent a terrible night there, men being obliged to walk about all night to keep warm as their greatcoats had been taken from them.

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* P.P. No. 44, p. 30.

† P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 30.

" On the 17th October, in the morning, the French Red Cross people gave us what they could in food, and did their very best, in spite of opposition from the Germans. At about 2 P.M. on the same day we were all marched off to the railway station, being reviled at and cursed all the way by German officers as well as by German soldiers. One of our officers was spat on by a German officer.

" At the station we were driven into closed-in wagons, from which horses had just been removed, fifty-two men being crowded into the one in which the other four officers and myself were. So tight were we packed that there was only room for some of us to sit down on the floor. This floor was covered fully 3 inches deep in fresh manure, and the stench of horse urine was almost asphyxiating. We were boxed up in this foul wagon, with practically no ventilation, for thirty hours, with no food, and no opportunity of attending to purposes of nature. All along the line we were cursed by officers and soldiers alike at the various stations, and at Mons Bergen I was pulled out in front of the wagon by the order of the officer in charge of the station, and, after cursing me in filthy language for some 10 minutes, he ordered one of his soldiers to kick me back into the wagon, which he did, sending me sprawling into the filthy mess at the bottom of the wagon. I should like to mention here that I am thoroughly conversant with German, and understood everything that was said. Only at one station on the road was any attempt made on the part of German officers to interfere, and stop their men from cursing us. This officer appeared to be sorry for the sad plight in which we were in. I should also like to mention that two men of the German Guard also appeared to be sympathetic and sorry for us; but they were able to do little or nothing to protect us.

" Up to this time I had managed to retain my overcoat, but it was now forcibly taken from me by an officer at a few stations further on.

" On reaching the German-Belgian frontier, the French prisoners were given some potato soup. The people in charge of it told us that none was for us, but that if any was left over after the French had been fed we should get what remained. This is in accordance with the general treatment of British prisoners by the Germans, who always endeavour to attend to our necessities last, and to put us to as much inconvenience and ill-treatment as possible. We subsequently got a little soup and a few slices of bread amongst twenty-five British prisoners in the same wagon with me.

" On the 18th October, early, we arrived at Cologne, and the four officers and myself were removed from the wagon, and, after some delay, sent on to Crefeld.

" I said that fifty-two prisoners were in the wagon with me when we left Douay. These were: [here follow the names of four officers], myself, fifteen English soldiers and 32 French civilians of all grades of society. It is difficult to indicate or

give a proper idea of the indescribably wretched condition in which we were in after being starved and confined in the manner stated for three days and three nights. As is well known, one of these wagons is considered to be able to accommodate six horses or forty men, and this only with the doors open so as to admit of ventilation. What with the filth of the interior, the number of people confined in it, and the absence of ventilation, it seemed to recall something of what one has read of the Black Hole of Calcutta. To give an idea of the state of mind to which we have been reduced, I got one of the better-class French prisoners to secrete a letter to my wife in the hope that he might be able to get it out to her when he reached his destination, as these French civilian prisoners were being treated better than ourselves. They all expressed great pity for the way in which we were being treated.

"I found out that the wagon in front of us was full up with English soldiers. This particular wagon had no ventilation slit of any sort or description, and men were crowded into this even worse than they were in the wagon in which I was. They banged away continually on the wooden sides of the van, and finally, as I supposed the Germans thought that they might be suffocated, a carpenter was got, who cut a small round hole in one of the sides.

"I am strongly of opinion myself that this brutal treatment of British officers and men on their way to a place of internment is deliberately arranged for by superior authority with the object of making us as miserable and despicable objects as possible. The French officers were treated quite differently."

Section III.—THE TREATMENT OF OFFICERS DURING INTERNMENT.

(i) Pay.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 17 of the Hague Regulations provides that:—

"Officers taken prisoners shall receive the same rate of pay as officers of corresponding rank in the country where they are detained; the amount shall be refunded by their own Government."

The British Proposal.—On the 24th September, Sir E. Grey announced that the British Government were prepared to put this provision in force, subject to an undertaking by the enemy Govern-

ments that reciprocal treatment would be given.* For convenience, and following the course said to have been adopted by the Russians and Japanese in 1904, it was proposed that all captured officers, whether naval,† or military, and whether regular, reserve, or territorial, should receive the minimum rate of pay given to British Infantry officers of corresponding rank, and that all officers of higher rank than Lieutenant-Colonel should receive Lieutenant-Colonel's pay.‡

The rates referred to were as follows:—

Lieutenant-Colonel	23*s.* 0*d.* per diem.
Major	16*s.* 0*d.* ,,
Captain	11*s.* 7*d.* ,,
Lieutenant	6*s.* 6*d.* ,,
2nd Lieutenant	5*s.* 3*d.* ,,
Quartermaster	9*s.* 0*d.* ,,

Officers receiving these rates of pay would of course have been expected to provide their own food and clothing.

As a provisional arrangement, the British Government sanctioned the issue of free food to captive officers, and half these rates of pay.§

German practice.—The American Consul-General at Berlin reported in October that captive officers at Torgau, so far from receiving these rates of pay, or the rate to which they were entitled under the Hague Regulation, were receiving approximately 2*s.* 0*d.* per diem if lieutenants, and approximately 3*s.* 4*d.* per diem if of superior rank.‖ This report was confirmed by Major Vandeleur in December, who added that at Crefeld the whole of a subaltern's pay was deducted for messing, so that he actually received nothing.¶ In March, the British Foreign Office received confirmation through the German branch of the Geneva Red Cross Society of the fact that British officers in Germany were only receiving this rate of pay. Thereupon the British Government felt obliged, " as the provisions of the Hague Convention are not now the regulating factor," to cancel existing arrangements, and to pay German officers at a rate bearing " the same ratio to minimum British infantry rates for captains and lieutenants as the pay issued by the German Government to British officers prisoners of war in Germany bears to ordinary German minimum rates for captains and lieutenants," *i.e.*, approximately 4*s.* 0*d.* per diem for subalterns, and 4*s.* 6*d.* per diem for all superior officers. Officers receiving these rates of pay are required, as from that date, to defray the cost of their rations and messing. The British Government offered to improve these conditions if Germany was prepared to improve the treatment of British officers.**

These facts speak for themselves. Great Britain has always been ready to abide by the terms of the Hague Regulation.

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* P.P. No. 9, p. 4.

† The Hague Regulation does not apply to naval officers. But the parties to the Convention expressed a " vœu " that its principles should be applied as far as possible to war at sea.

‡ See also P.P. No. 11, p. 6.

§ See also P.P. No. 32, p. 21.

‖ P.P. No. 20, encl. p. 12.

¶ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32.

** A despatch of Sir E. Grey to Mr. Page. P.P. No. 105, p. 74.

(ii) Quarters.

Captured members of the hostile forces are confined in internment camps or prison fortresses. These places differ in locality and situation.

British practice.—According to the British practice,

"The accommodation provided for officers is entirely apart from soldiers, and is either in country houses or officers' quarters in barracks. Their quarters are comfortably furnished, but without luxury. Servants are found for officers from among the prisoners of war."*

German practice.—A German official memorandum, issued in October, stated that "as a rule captured officers and soldiers are not interned in the same place at the same time."† Officers are said to be confined in fortresses, and the place of internment must be a healthy place, absolutely unobjectionable from a hygienic point of view."‡ It is further declared that Generals are provided with a living room and a bedroom; staff officers each with a single room; and other officers either with a small room each, or with a large room which they have to share.§ Each officer is allowed, according to the official statements, at least 15 cubic metres breathing space in quarters which can be aired, admit full day-light, and can be heated and lighted daily.‖

But, in fact, at Crefeld seven or eight officers were quartered in rooms capable of accommodating six soldiers,¶ and at Burg, 23 British officers were reported in February to be living in one room, "a garret under the roof."** According to the official statement,†† "Heat, light, and equipment is furnished by the respective commanders, and is not at the expense of the interned"; but at Torgau in October, 1914, officers were called upon to pay for necessary alterations and enlargements in the kitchen, including the provision of two new boilers.‡‡ Again, the German authorities allege that the furniture in officers' quarters consists of a bedstead, with mattress, bolster, bed linen, and two blankets; a chair or stool; a place for hanging clothes, and a place for storing food; and a basin, glass, towel, table, and pail. They also state that an orderly is supplied from among the prisoners of war, one for every five or ten officers, to clean their clothes and rooms, the courtyards and halls, and to wait at table.§§ But Major Vandeleur reports that at Crefeld, where he was a prisoner until December last, only one orderly was supplied for fifteen officers, and that they had to make their own beds and brush their own boots in nearly all cases. "The beds we slept on were as provided for the German soldiers, and were very hard and uncomfortable, and I found it difficult to get any real rest on them."‖‖‖

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* P.P. No. 32, p. 21.

† P.P. No. 20, encl. 4, p. 14.

‡ A later memorandum. P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 79.

§ P.P. No. 20, encl. 4, p. 14.

‖ P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 79.

¶ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32. At this camp, however, warming and lighting appear to have been reasonable.

** P.P. No. 86, p. 59. A despatch of Sir E. Grey to Mr. Page.

†† P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 79.

‡‡ P.P. No. 20, encl. 3, p. 13.

§§P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 79.

‖‖‖ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32.

(iii) Food.

British practice.—According to the British practice prevailing up to the 16th March, officers were messed free, and were allowed to purchase such liquors as they might wish.* Since that date, having regard to the refusal of Germany, at any rate up to the date at which the evidence considered in this Paper closes, to grant reciprocal treatment, they have been required to pay for their food.

German practice.—In Germany captured officers have from the beginning been compelled to pay for their food,† and in addition have been subjected to unreasonable restrictions. At Torgau and Crefeld, and probably elsewhere, officers were, during the early months of the war, forbidden wines and beer, although the water and mineral waters provided are undrinkable; and they are forbidden to have white bread.‡ It is officially stated by the German Government that cigars, tobacco, and chocolate may not be purchased anywhere in Germany.§

At Crefeld, officers are charged 2 marks (approximately 2/-) a day for food, which, though moderately good in quality, is insufficient and bad for the money. This charge absorbs the whole of a subaltern's pay, and leaves him nothing to expend on clothing and other necessaries.‖ Major Vandeleur reported in December that—

> "Breakfast . . . consisted of poor coffee with milk, bread and margarine.
>
> "Dinner . . . consisted of very poor soup, being the water in which our meat was cooked; meat, generally pork, with potatoes and sauerkraut, but once a week we had beef, and very occasionally mutton; vegetables have also been supplied latterly, after continued complaint.
>
> "The evening meal . . . consisted, as a rule, of slices of sausages with bread and margarine, and coffee."‖

A canteen was also provided at the barracks, at which officers were able to purchase foodstuffs and necessary clothing, which was run by the Germans.‖

At Dänholm, according to the statement of a Russian medical officer made in December 1914, and confirmed from another source,¶ the food was very bad, both in quality and quantity. The coffee was bad and made with dirty water. The officers were given three pieces of bread a day made with potato meal. Lunch consisted mostly of potatoes. In the evening they received bread and a small slice of sausage. The cost of this was 1.50 marks. A lieutenant was allowed 60 marks a month, but from this was deducted 45 marks for the above food.**

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* P.P. No. 32, p. 21.

† German official memorandum. P.P. No. 20, encl. 4, p. 14.

‡ Report of the American Consul-General. P.P. No. 20, encl. 2, 3, p. 13. *Cp.* Major Vandeleur's report. P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32. According to the German memorandum of 28th February, officers may now buy beer and light wines in limited quantities.

§ German memorandum of 28th February. P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 80.

‖ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, 2, pp. 32, 33. This Report is dated December, 1914.

¶See P.P. No. 44, p. 29.

** P.P. No. 39, encl. p. 26.

(iv) Clothing.

Neither Great Britain nor Germany has supplied captured officers with new clothing free of charge. But Germany has deprived officers of the clothes which they already possess. Major Vandeleur, in describing his journey from La Bassée in October, 1914, says:—

"My overcoat . . . was now forcibly taken from me by an officer at a few stations further on."*

Indeed he records that articles of clothing, such as caps and great-coats, and in many cases tunics, are systematically taken away from officers.†

This is in violation of Article 4 of the Hague Regulations, which provides that:—

"All their personal belongings, except arms, horses, and military papers, remain their property."

THE TREATMENT OF MEN DURING INTERNMENT.

(i) Quarters.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 7 of the Hague Regulations provides that:

"The Government into whose hands prisoners of war have fallen is charged with their maintenance. In default of special agreement between the belligerents, prisoners of war shall be treated as regards . . . quarters . . . on the same footing as the troops of the Government which captured them."

British practice.—According to the British practice enemy soldiers and interned civilians are lodged either in barracks or on board ship, or in large buildings which have been taken over for the purpose, or in huts which have been built to receive them. These are all warm and well lighted.‡ Interned civilians have been given the opportunity to elect for better accommodation and food at their own expense. Those who do not avail themselves of this are divided into social classes in the various places of internment. They all receive the same accommodation and food, but can consort with those of their own class. The statements made in this official memorandum are confirmed by the report of Mr. Chandler Hale, of the United States Embassy, who visited the internment camp at the Isle of Man on the 23rd November:§

"At present 500 are housed in two large comfortable buildings, where each man has a bunk with mattress and three blankets.

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* P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 31. † P.P. No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33.

‡ British Memorandum of 14th December. P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 23. See also No. 32, p. 21. A few who were still in tents at the date of this latter despatch were moved into huts shortly afterwards.

§ P.P. No. 47, p. 36.

> Other and similar huts are being erected for the rest of the prisoners who are now living in tents, each of which has a raised wooden flooring."

The British official memorandum further states that sanitary arrangements, which necessarily differ in each camp, are under the control of the medical officer in charge, and that he is in frequent touch with the local medical officer of health. "Two officers, experts in sanitation, constantly visit various camps with a view to making the conditions as nearly perfect as possible. That these efforts are being successful is evident by the fact that the number of deaths from natural causes up to the beginning of December in all places of internment have amounted to five, namely, one from valvular heart disease, two from aneurism of aorta, one from dropsy, one from typhoid (contracted before arrival in camp). Arrangements are made in each place of internment for the washing of clothes, which is done by the individual, and of the person. In most cases hot water shower baths are provided, and it is hoped that these will soon be established everywhere."*

Mr. Hale's report corroborates the truth of these statements. He records that the washing facilities are ample and very good, and are kept clean, and that there is hot and cold running water.

> "As compared with Ruhleben or any other camp that I have visited in either country, the conditions are very good."‡

Considerable freedom is given to prisoners of war in each place of internment to arrange for their own comfort, general administration, and maintenance of discipline; "Captains" are elected by themselves, and it is to them that commandants look for general control, and through them that representations are received. The plan works well, and is appreciated by the prisoners.§

German practice.—The German official memorandum issued in October stated that non-commissioned officers and soldiers are kept on drill grounds, artillery target grounds, or on special grounds in the vicinity of unfortified towns. Effort is made to provide specially for non-commissioned officers, particularly the older ones. As regards the amount of space allotted, the equipment of the quarters, heating, lighting, &c., the provisions applicable to hut camps and garrison quarters are in general in force.‖ The minimum breathing space to each man is five cubic metres. Sleeping accommodation consists of cloth sacks (paliasses) which are filled up with straw or wood shavings; and for each prisoner two woollen blankets, a towel, and eating utensils are provided. For each quarter the necessary tables, "sitting places," linen, drinking cups, appliances for the hanging up of clothing, and wall shelves upon which to place eatables and small articles are provided. There is in each prison camp an installation for a bath and a wash-house for the cleaning of the

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* P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 23.
† 23rd November. P.P. No. 47, p. 36.
‡ P.P. No. 75, encl. p. 54. § P.P. No. 20, encl. 4, p. 14.

laundry; and sufficient lighting (if possible, electric light), is provided.*

The actual conditions in the different German camps, according to evidence extending over the first eight months of the war, vary considerably. At Döberitz these provisions seem to have been properly carried out:

> "At present the men are housed in tents with straw mattresses, each tent being in the charge of a non-commissioned officer. A large number of wooden houses, however, have been constructed. These are well built, lighted by electricity, and will be properly heated. Each house will contain 100 men in one large room. There will be a small room for the British non-commissioned officers in charge of the building. Each of these houses has six or eight windows. Ten of these houses form a colony, to which is attached for each thousand men a kitchen, two lavatories, and a store-house. The cooking is of course done by the men themselves.
>
> "The settlement lies on a broad, sandy plain in healthful surroundings. The men on the whole seem cheerful. They are permitted to exercise, and a large amount of space is at their disposal for this purpose. Ample arrangements are also to be provided for washing throughout the winter."†

At Merseburg the prisoners, "separated by nationality, are housed in wooden buildings, well built, ventilated, and heated. Water is piped into the enclosure and electric lights are sufficiently placed. . . . They sleep upon straw mattresses in well-warmed quarters, and, as far as I could judge, are as well or better housed than are labourers upon public works in the United States."‡

But in some camps the conditions appear to be very different. Major Vandeleur, speaking of the British prisoners who came to Crefeld as orderlies, reported in December, 1914, that:

> "the men state that they slept on straw which had not been changed for months, and was quite sodden and rotten. All the men who came as orderlies were crawling in vermin, and half of them were suffering from the itch. The medical officer had to isolate these men before they could be employed as servants."§

Surgeon-General Zviargintsef was informed in December last by a Belgian sergeant that at Dänholm bei Stralsund, "the men, among whom, as he understood, there were a certain number of English private soldiers, were subjected to a régime of extreme harshness. They were quartered in earthen huts which were undrained, unheated, and without light. . . . Many were already suffering from rheumatism, and their general condition was deplorable."‖

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* German memorandum of 28th February. P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 80.

† Report of Mr. Grew, of the United States Embassy, 17th October. P.P. No. 20, encl. 1, p. 11.

‡ Report of the United States Consul at Leipzig, 16th November. P.P. No. 30, encl. p. 20.

§ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32.

‖ P.P. No. 54, p. 40.

These reports are corroborated by a detailed description of the state of the internment camp at Ruhleben in December, furnished by a British prisoner interned there. It is as follows:—

"Ruhleben is a trotting course with a training establishment attached. The latter is used to house the prisoners. There are eleven stables each containing twenty-seven horses' boxes of 10 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 6 in., and above them two large lofts. We are housed in the boxes and in the lofts, each box accommodating six prisoners. The floor is of concrete, and after we arrived we were supplied with a moderate amount of straw, which, strewn on the concrete, serves as one's bed. There is also a table and five chairs. The concrete is damp, and consequently the straw has become damp and clammy also. Recently we were supplied with sacks which were to be filled with straw and to serve as mattresses. For this we had to use the old damp and partly-rotten straw. A long passage runs down the full length of each stable; it contains two taps, which, together with one earthenware dish, constitute all the washing accommodation for the approximately 300 or 400 men housed in each stable. We are roused at 6, and have to get up at once; light in the passage is turned on about 6.30, when there is a scramble for water; afterwards the whole stall is lined up and has to march a distance of 500 to 600 yards for coffee. . . . After that the horse's box has to be cleaned. Each stall has a non-commissioned officer and two private soldiers in command. They treat the prisoners with great brutality, shouting at them, and even using personal violence. . . . About 8 at night we begin to go to 'bed' as best we can, and at 9 there must be dead silence and the lights are turned out in the passage; only one small one is left burning. All this as related here does not sound so very terrible, but in practice for those who have to go through it it is 'hell.' The horses' boxes are damp, and a boot placed on the concrete for a few days will get quite a damp sole. Six men abreast in a space of about 10 ft. 6 in. means that they are packed like sardines in a box, and no one can move. They are supplied with only one poor blanket each, and those who have none of their own are in a sad plight. If one man in the line attempts to turn he disturbs all the others. Young men in the full vigour of life may be able to stand it, but for elderly men it simply means, if not immediate death, then certainly a shortened life and broken health for the rest of their days. The coughing which starts shortly after they have all turned in, and which is apparently caused less by colds than by foul air and the dust, is awful to hear. The sanitary arrangements are poor. The water-closets are all closed to the prisoners and reserved for the soldiers. The latrine, which is erected at one side of the square, is about 50 to 60 yards distant from the various stables, and anyone obliged to use it in the night has to go there. The poor quality of the food

caused illnesses, which makes this a special hardship. There are men so stiff with rheumatism and other complaints that they have to be carried across to the latrines by their friends. There are no baths. There is a shower bath at the emigration barracks, some distance away from this camp, where the Russian emigrants were formally cleansed of vermin. To this the English prisoners are marched in batches. . . . As to the inhabitants of the camp, there are about 4,000 to 5,000 of them spread over the eleven stables and two new wooden sheds which are being built and a small tea pavilion by the racecourse. Of these about 1,100 are British seamen, and of the remaining 3,000 or 4,000 fully 60 per cent. are ' Britons ' with German names, many of whom cannot even speak one word of English. For what reason they are here nobody seemed to understand. They are, however, gradually weeded out, and of those who are being discharged on account of ill-health almost all seem to have German names. For real Britons and Colonials there is no chance of getting away from here. There are men from all classes and practically of all ages. There are sailors over 70 years of age and civilians of 56 and more.''*

(ii) Food.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 7 of the Hague Regulations provides that:—

" The Government into whose hands prisoners of war have fallen is charged with their maintenance.

" In default of special agreement between the belligerents, prisoners of war shall be treated as regards rations . . . on the same footing as the troops of the Government which captured them."

British practice.—The rations issued to prisoners of war captured by British troops, as well as to interned civilians, are fully set out in the British official memorandum of the 14th December.† They are issued free, and consist of:—

Bread, 1 lb. 8 ozs., or biscuits, 1 lb.
Meat, fresh or frozen, 8 oz., or pressed, 4 oz.
Tea, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or coffee, 1 oz.
Salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Sugar, 2 oz.
Condensed milk, $\frac{1}{20}$ tin (1 lb.).
Fresh vegetables, 8 oz.
Pepper, $\frac{1}{72}$ oz.
2 oz. cheese to be allowed as an alternative for 1 oz. butter or margarine.
2 oz. of peas, beans, lentils, or rice.

* 29th December. P.P. No. 63, encl. 1, p. 46.
† P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 23.

Prisoners of war may in addition purchase tobacco, fruit and small luxuries at the canteen. Prices, which are fixed by the commandant, are on the same scale as that charged to British soldiers.*

Mr. Hale's report clearly shows how excellent is the quality and quantity of the food supplied by the British Government to German prisoners:—

"The dietary is excellent. Breakfast: 1 pint porridge, 1¼ oz. syrup, 1 pint tea with sugar and milk, 8 oz. bread and ½ oz. margarine. Supper: 1 pint tea with sugar and milk, ½ oz. margarine and 8 oz. bread. Dinner: 20 oz. potatoes, 4 oz. bread, a green vegetable every other day and meat in following rotation. Sunday: ¼ lb. roast beef; Monday: stew; Tuesday: 6 to 8 oz. sausages; Wednesday: scouce made of meat, potatoes, and vegetables; Thursday: stew; Friday: sausages; Saturday: scouce.

"The men have their meals in a large glass-roofed, steam-heated and electric-lighted building, where 16,000 can eat at a time."†

German practice.—The German memorandum issued in October stated that captured non-commissioned officers and soldiers receive the same food as German non-commissioned officers and soldiers. The cost of providing food is reckoned at the rate of 60 pfennige per day and per person, which is about as much as for German non-commissioned officers. The food is simple, but sufficient.‡

The official memorandum of the 28th February issued instructions to camp commanders to be guided by the following principles:—

"To the prisoners of war sufficient plain food shall be given which in its quantity and composition is adapted to such class of work as may be required of the prisoners of war.

"Wherever possible consideration shall be paid to the habits of living.

"The prisoners of war receive the same quantity of bread as the German troops lodged in civilian quarters.

"Three meals a day are served out:—

"In the morning: Coffee, tea, or soup.

"At noon: A plentiful fare consisting of meat and vegetables. The meat may be replaced by a correspondingly larger portion of fish.

"At night: a substantial and plentiful meal.

"Under any circumstances the daily fare must be sufficient for the proper nourishment. The commanders who are responsible for the fulfilment of these instructions consequently are authorised to increase the amount of meat or vegetables according to requirements; they are thereby placed in a position to better adapt the fare to the habits of living of the various nations.

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* See Despatch of Sir E. Grey to Mr. Page, 2nd December. P.P. No. 32, p. 21.

† P.P. No. 47, p. 36.

‡ P.P. No. 20, encl. 4, p. 14.

" Continuous and careful supervision of the food under co-operation of medical officers is absolutely necessary; attention must be paid also to the fact that the fare does not become monotonous, but is varied as much as possible.

" In the canteens the men may purchase plain foodstuffs, articles for the care of the body, linenware, &c., at fixed low prices."*

At Ruhleben, according to the German statement of the 16th February, English prisoners are supplied with food as follows:—

Morning: ¾ litre of coffee.

Midday: 1 litre of vegetables, with—
(1) 100 gr. meat (weighed raw), or
70 gr. bacon, or
60 gr. tinned meat.
(2) 1,200 gr. potatoes.
(3) 25 gr. beef suet with the necessary parts.

Evening: 1 litre soup (excluding farinaceous soup), or
Cocoa, or
Tea, or
80 gr. sausage.

Further: ½ kilog. bread daily.

The food, which is prepared by experienced cooks, is examined daily by an officer; the dietary is supervised by the camp doctor. Prisoners who are certified by the doctor to be suffering from stomach or intestinal diseases are permitted to cater for themselves at the casino within the camp. The prices at this casino are very moderate, and the food, of which the officers and non-commissioned officers in charge of the camp also partake, is good. This branch is also under the daily control of an officer.

Alcohol is forbidden throughout the camp.

Milk (hot and cold), mineral waters, butter, margarine, fat, and other things eaten with bread, excepting luxuries, can be bought in the camp by the prisoners. The very moderate prices charged for these provisions are fixed by the commandant (" Kommando "). A price list is enclosed. The quality of goods is controlled.†

However, within seven days of the issue of this memorandum,‡ the United States Ambassador at Berlin reported that of the 4,273 men interned at this very place, approximately 2,000 were in the greatest destitution.

" Although clothes have been furnished for all, these men, who have no means of obtaining money from the outside, are unable to procure margarine, sugar, soap, &c., of which they stand in great need. I have . . . caused the ' Captain ' of the Engländerlager, Mr. J. Powell, to make a complete list of those men who have absolutely no way of procuring money. The result of this investigation has been that I have found that a far larger number of men than I expected are now, or will shortly be, completely without means. The smallest sum

* P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 80.
† P.P. No. 93. encl. 2, p. 63.
‡ *i.e.*, on 23rd February. Despatch to Mr. Page, P.P. No. 95, encl. p. 65.

per week which could be satisfactorily given, and which would actually cause a great difference in the condition of these men, is 5 m., entailing a distribution of some 10,000 m. per week. The money thus distributed will be spent for such articles as sugar, margarine, sausage, jam, soap, and tobacco, which are to be bought at the canteen at the Engländerlager."*

The evidence of official German statements must be compared with the evidence furnished by the United States Ambassador, and by the prisoners themselves.

A British prisoner at Ruhleben, describing the conditions prevailing in December last, relates that " each man is supplied with a dish, which he takes with him, and in this he receives about a pint of what is called coffee, but what is really only a concoction of chicory without either milk or sugar. Between 11 and 12 o'clock the midday meal is served out in the same way and into the same dish as the coffee. Prisoners are marched 500 to 600 yards to one of the kitchens and there receive about 1 to 1½ pints of what is called soup—it is water, potatoes, vegetables, such as Swedish carrots or cabbages, sometimes peas or rice, and very little meat boiled with it. Men sometimes have not received a scrap of meat for a whole week. It is said that the contractor who supplies the food boils the meat first for the soldiers and gives them the best of it, and the bones and leavings then go into the prisoners' soup. The ingredients used seem to be to a great extent condemned stores. The rice, for instance, was sweepings from warehouses and soiled by mice, and the barley also often has the same flavour. Still, this concoction would be eatable if it were properly boiled, but the vegetables are generally half raw and quite hard. About 6 there is lining up again for a basin of coffee or skilly. Besides this each prisoner received every second day a loaf of black bread made of rye flour, with an admixture of 50 per cent. of potatoes. There is a canteen, where at exorbitant prices such luxuries as sugar, white bread, condensed milk, butter, chocolate, cigars, &c., can be bought by those who can afford it. Those who cannot afford to buy these luxuries are in a very bad plight. They are not actually dying of starvation, but they can only just keep themselves alive and no more."†

However, it does appear that some improvement in the supply of food at this camp has recently taken place. In the despatch just quoted, the United States Ambassador mentioned that the management of the canteen had been taken out of the hands of a contractor, and is now to be run upon a co-operative basis by the men themselves at as nearly cost price as can be arranged.‡

Messrs. Bradshaw and Coyne, who were released from Ruhleben during March, reported to the Home Office that:—

" Since the 7th March a very important change has taken place in the food supplied to the prisoners; thanks to investigations by Rittmeister von Müller, the caterer has been dispensed with. It is believed in the camp that the United States authorities

* P.P. No. 95, encl. p. 65. † P.P. No. 63, encl. 1, p. 46.
‡ P.P. No. 95, encl. p. 65.

prompted these investigations. The German authorities provide the bread, which is of better quality than formerly. The allowance is over half a pound per man per day, *i.e.*, more than the civil population is allowed, but it is believed that a regulation has been made, though not yet brought into force, to reduce the bread allowance to correspond with that allowed to persons outside the camp. Bread is no longer purchasable at the canteen.

" The Government allows 60 pfennige (just over 7*d.*) per head for the rest of the food. The canteen committee buys 100 grammes of meat (gristle, bone, &c., included) per man per day. Pork is much used, then comes mutton and, more rarely, beef.

" The meat is cooked in the soup and each man is given a piece about the size of a cutlet with his soup at midday. The spare pieces are divided amongst the men from the last barracks to be served; the barracks take it in turns to be last.

" On one day a week dinner consists of a piece of sausage, and rice and prunes.

" A piece of sausage is now served with the evening tea or coffee. This sausage is bought out of the savings under the new system.

" The rest of the savings on the catering and the profit on the sales at the canteen go towards providing clothes, &c., for the poorest men in the camp.

" The meat is inspected by two of the prisoners, one a veterinary surgeon and the other a butcher; it is cooked by ships' cooks who are interned, and served by men chosen from among the prisoners. The food is said to be well-cooked and the meals quite appetising, at any rate when compared with the previous régime."*

There is much evidence to show that the supply of food is also very bad in many other camps. At Merseburg and Altdamm the supply seems to be sufficient in quantity and quality. The American Consul at Leipzig reported in November that at Merseburg " the prisoners are fed three times a day. Breakfast consists of coffee and bread. Dinner consists of vegetable and meat soup and bread, and for supper they are given bread and coffee. I was informed that many of the prisoners have some money, and that they are allowed to buy whatever else they may wish to eat. If I may judge from the mounds of empty beer bottles at hand, there is evidence in support of this statement."†

But at Döberitz, although no complaints were made on the 17th October, on the 2nd October the United States Ambassador reported that "some of the men complained that the food was insufficient. One loaf of good black bread is given to three men; each man has a cup of coffee in the morning, some soup in the middle of the day, and a cup of tea or coffee at night, and this constitutes their sole

* P.P. No. 109, p. 81.

† P.P. No. 30, encl. p. 20, *cp.* also P.P. No. 58, encl. 2, p. 43.

rations. I presume that the British prisoners in other camps are in a similar condition. The men also asked for tobacco and some money to buy extra supplies at the canteens which exist in the camps."*

British soldiers who came to Crefeld as orderlies informed Major Vandeleur in December last that "the feeding arrangements for the British soldier were very bad indeed, and as the men had no money to supplement their rations they were in a half-starved condition, which their appearance corroborated."† These complaints were confirmed by Surgeon-General Zviargintsef, who had been released from Dänholm,‡ and by the report of a United States citizen living at Havre.§

(iii) Clothing.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 7 of the Hague Regulations provides that:—

> "The Government into whose hands prisoners of war have fallen is charged with their maintenance. In default of special agreement between the belligerents, prisoners of war shall be treated, as regards . . . clothing, on the same footing as the troops of the Government which captured them."

British practice.—According to the British practice, "an ample supply of first-class clothing, including overcoats, boots, shirts, and underclothing, as well as towels, soap, &c., is kept in each camp, and is supplied to those who have need of it free of charge."‖

German practice.—According to an official German statement of the 28th February—

> "In the beginning, non-commissioned officers and men who are prisoners of war remain in the uniform which they have brought with them. If the state of the thin clothing need replacing, the prisoners will at first be provided with proper articles of clothing from the booty of war. When the latter is used up, new suitable clothes are purchased. The kind of clothing is dependent upon the season, the climate and the weather. The clothing generally consists of a suit, necktie and cap, besides shirts, socks, warm underwear and good shoes are given, as well as overcoats and woollen blankets to protect against the cold.
>
> "Male civilian prisoners of war will be fitted out in the same way as military prisoners of war after their present clothing can no longer be used."¶

In fact, British prisoners have been deprived of the overcoats, and even the tunics, which they were wearing at the time of capture. This conduct is in violation of Article 4 of the Hague Regulations, which provides that "all their personal belongings, except arms, horses, and military papers, remain their property." Nevertheless

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* P.P. No. 15, encl. p. 8.
† P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32, *cp.* also No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33.
‡ P.P. No. 54, p. 40.
§ P.P. No. 44, encl. 3, p. 34.
‖ P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 24.
¶ P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 80.

it is proved by the testimony of the United States Ambassador at Berlin, who reported in October, 1914, that:

"The prisoners have only one blanket* and are without overcoats, as when taken prisoner they are compelled to drop their overcoats and equipment. They therefore suffer from cold, as well as from the condition brought about by having no change of underwear."†

Major Vandeleur calls special attention to the way in which British soldiers had been deprived of their clothing by the Germans, or had not been supplied with new clothes when the old were worn out. According to information obtained from the British orderlies who came to Crefeld as servants, and also from English and French medical officers who had been in the camps, which in many cases were composed of tents, "the men all had their greatcoats—and in many cases their tunics as well—and their money taken away from them, and are in great need of clothing, and particularly underclothing. It appears that the Germans supplied them with wooden clogs when boots were worn out."‡ Major Vandeleur also reports that no greatcoats, socks or underclothing were at that date (December) being issued to the men; and that wooden clogs and shoddy trousers were given to them.§ The report of a United States citizen living at Havre also records that "there is a dearth of blankets and clothes amongst prisoners; many of them are in possession only of the clothes in which they were originally captured."‖

However, at Merseburg sufficient clothing appears to be provided;¶ and at Altdamm "each prisoner is furnished with all the clothing he needs if he arrives unprovided, the one suit of underwear must be made to suffice until worn out. Arrangements exist for washing clothing properly, and this is insisted upon."**

Section V.—MATTERS AFFECTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PRISONERS.

(i) Medical Attendance and Hospital Accommodation.

The Geneva Convention.—Article 1 of the Geneva Convention, signed on the 6th July, 1906, provides that "Officers and soldiers, and other persons officially attached to armies, shall be respected and taken care of when wounded or sick by the belligerent in whose power they may be, without distinction of nationality."

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* The American Consul-General at Berlin reported on 17th October that the prisoners at Döberitz were by that time receiving two blankets, but that prisoners complained that they were not thick enough. P.P. No. 20, encl p. 11.

† Despatch of Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page of 2nd October. P.P. No. 15, encl. p. 8.

‡ No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32.

§ P.P. No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33.

‖ P.P. No. 44, encl. 3, p. 34, Dec., 1914.

¶ P.P. No. 30, encl. p. 20.

** P.P. No. 58, encl. 2, p. 43.

British practice.—According to the British practice captured officers and soldiers receive free medical attendance.* " A resident medical officer forms part of the staff of each place of internment, and in each is a hospital where minor cases of sickness can be dealt with. More serious cases are removed to local hospitals, and in some cases to the German Hospital in London. Soldier and sailor prisoners of war who require hospital treatment are admitted to military hospitals and treated in precisely the same way as British soldiers and sailors. Officers are in officers' wards."†

German practice.—According to a German official statement, " the medical service in the prison camps corresponds to that maintained in the hut camps in peace time. Captured medical officers are employed in the medical service of the prison camps. Likewise members of the medical corps are in proper cases employed in the same manner."‡

Generally speaking, the hospital accommodation and medical attendance provided for prisoners of war by the German authorities is fairly satisfactory. Major Vandeleur has no complaint to make in this respect.§ At Torgau, however, officers had, at any rate in October last, great difficulty in procuring special medicines which they require owing to some permanent ailment or weakness.|| One exception must be mentioned. At Ruhleben, according to a prisoner interned there, there is, or was, in December, 1914, practically no medical attendance for prisoners.

" There are two military doctors, one of whom seems to have been withdrawn, as rumours say, because he was too humane. The state of affairs is best illustrated by the following actual occurrence. One night a man was taken ill with gall stones; of course he could not get help in the night, but the first thing in the morning the non-commissioned officer was informed, who came and looked at him and sent for the hospital attendant. That attendant turned up a few hours later, took the patient's temperature, found his pulse very weak, and said it was a case for the doctor, whom he would inform. The sick man waited all day, but no doctor came, although he could be seen walking about the square for hours smoking cigarettes. In the evening the hospital attendant came to ask if the doctor had been to see the patient, and promised to send him at 8 o'clock, but no doctor came. Next morning, after thirty-six hours after the man was taken ill, he was informed that if he wanted to see the doctor he would have to dress and go and see him. This he eventually did. His friends dragged him to the consulting room; the doctor did not even examine him, he merely asked him what was the matter and what he wanted. When informed that the patient wanted morphium he told his attendant to give him one capsule, and that ended the matter. All the inmates of this camp are agreed that if anyone here

* See despatch of Sir E. Grey to Mr. Page, of 2nd December. P.P. No. 32, p. 21.

† P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 23.

‡ P.P. No. 20, encl. 4, p. 14.

§ See P.P. No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33.

|| P.P. No. 20, encl. 3, p. 13.

should fall ill his days are numbered unless he be a German Englishman."*

(ii) Postal Facilities.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 16 of the Hague Regulations provides that:—

"Letters, money orders, and valuables, as well as postal parcels, intended for prisoners of war, or despatched by them, shall be exempt from all postal charges in the countries of origin and destination, as well as in the countries they pass through."

British practice.—The arrangements made by Great Britain to carry out the terms of this Article are set out in a despatch of Sir E. Grey to the United States Ambassador in London, dated the 24th September.†

"As regards postal facilities, letters written by prisoners of war will be free of postal charges, whether addressed to persons in the United Kingdom, in allied, in neutral or in enemy states. Letters addressed to prisoners of war, whether posted at home or abroad, will be similarly exempt.

"Postal parcels sent abroad by, or from abroad to, prisoners of war will also be free of postage.

"The registration and insurance of postal parcels and letters going abroad will be free.

"Commission on postal orders and money orders sent by prisoners of war to persons in the United Kingdom, or in an enemy or neutral state, will be waived.

"Apart from the facilities above indicated, arrangements have been made for the actual transmission of the letters and parcels of prisoners of war to Germany.

"Any remittances of money to prisoners of war will be issued to them under the direction of the commandants of the places of internment."

"Every interned prisoner is permitted to write two letters a week, each consisting of two pages of ordinary writing paper, ruled. No writing is allowed between the lines. These are despatched twice a week, after being censored. In special cases, where a man can show need for it, the number and length of his letters is unlimited. There is no limitation to the number of letters which a man may receive. Letters from or to prisoners may be written in either German or English, but when in German there is greater delay in censorship."‡

German practice.—The German official statement issued on the 28th February stated that "according to new regulations now uniformly in force throughout Germany, the prisoners may write a letter twice monthly, and besides, postal cards once weekly."§ These

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* P.P. No. 63, encl. 2, p. 47.
† P.P. No. 9, p. 5.
‡ See British memorandum of 14th December. P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 24.
§ P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 81. *Cp.* No. 93, encl. 2, p. 63.

postal cards are limited to nine lines.* "Officers may write letters of six pages; men, of four pages. If special circumstances exist, such as the adjustment of family matters and urgent affairs of a business nature, exceptions may be allowed."† Parcels not exceeding 5 kilog. in weight may be sent with or without a declaration of value.‡

Messrs. Bradshaw and Coyne report that these regulations are now in force at Ruhleben, and that parcels now reach prisoners of war at that camp in about ten or twelve days.§

These regulations are much less favourable to prisoners than those which are in force in this country; however, they show a marked improvement upon the state of affairs which previously prevailed. Formerly parcels took a month in transit.‖ At Torgau the American Consul-General at Berlin reported in October that the despatch and delivery of letters was much delayed owing to restrictions regarding censorship, and to the totally inadequate provision of censors. At that time no letters at all were allowed to be despatched in order to allow the Commandant, with his many other duties, to censor letters already posted. The assistance of senior British officers, which had already many times been offered, had always been declined.¶

Major Vandeleur reported that at Crefeld letters and post cards, although delayed, were received up to the 14th of December, when the delivery of letters almost ceased.** A prisoner interned at Ruhleben wrote on the 29th December that prisoners are allowed to write two post cards a week, and not more.††

(iii) Money and Gifts.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 16 of the Hague Regulations provides that:—

"Presents and relief in kind for prisoners of war shall be admitted free of all import or other duties, as well as any payment for carriage by State railways."

British practice.—According to the British practice—‡‡

"Any money found on a prisoner on internment above a small sum (say 1*l.*) is taken in charge by the camp commandant and a receipt is given to the man, who can then draw on the balance in the commandant's hands at such times and in such amounts as he may require and the commandant may think advisable. Similarly, money sent to a prisoner is, if in large amounts, taken in charge by the commandant, a receipt is given to the man, and he may obtain this money under the same conditions as money taken from him on internment. For any sum of money paid to or received from either side a receipt is always given. Within these restrictions the amount which a prisoner may receive is unlimited.

"Gifts, whether sent from a neutral country or received from

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* See P.P. No. 109, p. 81.
† P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 81. *Cp.* No. 93, encl. 2, p. 63.
‡ See P.P. No. 38, encl. p. 26. § 18th March. P.P. No. 109, p. 81.
‖ P.P. No. 109, p. 81. ¶ P.P. No. 20, encl. 3, p. 13.
** P.P. No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33. †† P.P. No. 63, encl. 2, p. 48.
‡‡ British memorandum of 14th December. P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 34.

other sources, are permitted, subject only to inspection by the camp staff before delivery to the recipient."

German practice.—According to the German official memorandum of the 28th February, prisoners of war, whether officers or men, may receive parcels of eatables, table luxuries, and tobacco, without exception, and these may not be withheld from them;* and Messrs. Bradshaw and Coyne state that at Ruhleben the officials are scrupulously honest as regards money owned by or sent to the prisoners, except that they pay out in paper or silver, whereas they took in gold. Money is paid out to those prisoners who have an account at the rate of 20 M. per fortnight, but an extra 20 M. can be obtained for the purchase of boots, clothes, &c., if shown to be necessary.† However, Major Vandeleur reported in December, 1914, that money in the possession of officers and men was systematically taken away from them on the journey to the internment camps in spite of an alleged Government prohibition, and that no receipts were given. Customs duties were charged on everything until the beginning of December; but have been remitted since that date. As to money sent from England, each officer was allowed to have in his possession at any one time sums not exceeding 5*l.*, and each soldier a sum not exceeding 10*s*. The surplus was retained by the commandant, and a receipt for it was given.‡

(iv) Occupations and Recreation.

The Hague Regulation.—Article 6 of the Hague Regulations provides that:—

"The State may employ the labour of prisoners of war, other than officers, according to their rank and capacity. The work shall not be excessive, and shall have no connection with the operations of the war. Prisoners may be authorised to work for the public service, for private persons, or on their own account. Work done for the State is paid for at rates proportional to the work of a similar kind executed by soldiers of the national army, or, if there are no such rates in force, at rates proportional to the work executed. When the work is for other branches of the public service, or for private persons, the conditions are settled in agreement with the military authorities. The wages of the prisoners shall go towards improving their position, and the balance shall be paid them on their release, deductions on account of the cost of maintenance excepted."

British practice.—In the internment camps in Great Britain—

"Everything possible is done to provide the prisoners with recreation, mental and bodily, and in each place of internment a committee is formed from among the prisoners (whether soldiers or civilians) to organise amusements and to frame suggestions for occupation, either intellectual or athletic. In

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* P.P. No. 108, encl. 3, p. 80.
† P.P. No. 109, p. 81.
‡ P.P. No. 44, encl. 2, p. 33.

this the military authorities are aided by philanthropic individuals and bodies. In certain cases, prisoners, both soldiers and civilians, have been employed in making roads, building huts for themselves, levelling and clearing ground. Civilians are employed on such work only if they volunteer for it, but should they so volunteer they are paid at the same rate as is given to soldiers, namely, that which is paid to our own soldiers in this country for similar work.

" All prisoners do their own cooking, and generally look to the cleanliness and good order of their camps. Books are supplied in each place of internment."*

Since February prisoners of war have been allowed to obtain English newspapers, subject to certain restrictions.†

German practice.—In Germany, on the other hand, prisoners of war were not, at any rate up to the end of March, 1915, allowed to have any newspapers.‡ But generally speaking they are permitted to have some form of recreation. Major Vandeleur reports that at Crefeld—

" we were allowed to make use of the gravel quadrangle inside the barracks, and we were also able to secure a football. By walking round and round the quadrangle we were able to keep ourselves reasonably fit. The quadrangle was some 70-80 yards long and about 60 yards wide, and surrounded by buildings three or four storeys high on two sides. On one of its sides was the stabling.

" No recreation rooms were provided, but we were allowed to use the dining hall after meals had been cleared away."§

At Merseburg and at Altdamm, opportunities for games and exercise seem to be given,‖ and at Ruhleben, although in December prisoners had to line up and were marched round the racecourse for about an hour, guarded by soldiers with loaded rifles,¶ an improvement is reported to have taken place, and a dramatic society has been started, which recently gave its first performance, Shaw's " Androcles and the Lion."**

Section VI.—Conclusion.

Recapitulation.—The evidence which has been put forward in this paper may be recapitulated. During the first eight months of the war—the period here under consideration—Great Britain has in every case shown herself ready and willing to treat German prisoners of war in accordance with the provisions of International Conventions and the recognised principles of humanity. In Germany, it was reported that—" the British are almost starved, and such have been their tortures that thirty of them asked to be shot." "The prisoners are stated to be given very little food and to be all herded together

* British memorandum, dated 14th December. P.P. No. 36, encl. p. 23.
† P.P. No. 75, encl. p. 55.
‡ P.P. No. 20, encl. 3, p. 14.
§ P.P. No. 44, encl. 1, p. 32.
‖ P.P. No. 30, encl. p. 20. P.P. No. 58, encl. 2, p. 42.
¶ P.P. No. 63, encl. 2, p. 47.
** P.P. No. 109, p. 82.

without light or warmth, their condition being such that they are apparently being gradually starved to death." These facts have come to the knowledge of the British Government, although there is evidence that certain features of the German internment camps are concealed from visitors.

Moreover, it appears that during this period British prisoners have been specially selected for unnecessary hardships. " The British prisoners were told that none of the potato soup was for them, but that if any was left over after the French had been fed, they should get what remained." " The German lieutenant in charge is openly insulting and hostile to the British prisoners."

As to the treatment of prisoners on the journey from the field of battle to the fortress prison, " there is authentic evidence of many instances of cruelty to officers, prisoners of war, on their way to Torgau, both from officers, soldiers, members of the Red Cross, and civilians." " Evidence shows that officers and men have been killed after capture." " I was pulled out in front of the wagon by the order of the officer in charge of the station, and after cursing me in filthy language for some ten minutes, he ordered one of his soldiers to kick me back into the wagon, which he did, sending me sprawling into the filthy mess at the bottom of the wagon. This floor was covered fully three inches deep in fresh manure, and the stench of horse urine was almost asphyxiating."

There is detailed evidence as to the treatment of prisoners of war in England and German, and as to the conditions prevailing in the internment camps during the period under discussion. The German Government has consistently refused to conform to the Hague Regulation concerning the pay of captured officers, although Great Britain has been willing to do so. Captured German officers in England are quartered in country houses, or in officers' quarters in barracks; at Burg 23 British officers were reported to be living in one room—a garret under the roof. While in England, until March, and so long as there seemed to be any hope of reciprocal treatment by Germany, German officers were messed free, and were able to purchase minor luxuries at the canteens, British officers in Germany have throughout been compelled to pay for their food, for which in some cases the whole of their pay has been deducted. Moreover, they may not purchase cigars, tobacco, or chocolate. Many British officers have, in violation of the Hague Regulation, been deprived of clothing which they were wearing at the time of capture.

Captured German soldiers in England have been lodged in large buildings, barracks, huts, or on board ship, and the greatest care has been taken by the British authorities with respect to sanitation. Captured British soldiers in Germany have been, in some cases, quartered in earthen huts, undrained, unheated, and unlighted. Although the conditions in one or two camps appear to be satisfactory, at Ruhleben six British soldiers are housed in a horse-box less than eleven feet square. " If one man in the line attempts to turn, he disturbs all the others."

German prisoners in Great Britain receive full rations, the exact particulars of which have been known to the world since December

last. British prisoners " are not exactly dying of starvation, but they can," in some of the camps, " only just keep themselves alive, and no more."

At each internment camp in Great Britain an ample supply of clothing is kept, and supplied free to enemy prisoners who have need of it. Germany in many cases issues wooden clogs and shoddy trousers; German officials have deprived British prisoners of the overcoats, equipment, and even tunics, which were in their possession when captured.

Medical treatment and hospital attendance are on the whole satisfactory. Postal facilities for prisoners are much more restricted in Germany than in England; although there has recently been an improvement in this respect. Great Britain allows newspapers, subject to certain regulations; Germany forbids them.

The Good Offices of the United States.—There has undoubtedly been some improvement in the treatment of prisoners by Germany; this seems to be largely due to the perseverance and goodwill of the Government of the United States through its diplomatic officers, which appear on every page of the Parliamentary Paper. They have frequently visited and reported upon the conditions existing among the prisoners in both countries; and have offered their services for the distribution of relief among those who are in want. The Embassy at Berlin has already distributed among British prisoners in Germany 7,220 greatcoats, 2,635 jackets, 2,994 pairs of trousers, 790 pairs of boots, 2,990 shirts, 2,989 pairs of drawers, 642 waistcoats, 1,908 pairs of socks, and many other articles. They have done humane work, which will be gratefully remembered.

A contrast.—Nothing can better illustrate the general difference of treatment of prisoners of war prevailing in Great Britain and Germany respectively than the two following descriptive accounts, both written by citizens of the United States. The first is an article on the state of British prisoners of war at Döberitz, published in December, 1914:—*

" There are 9,000 very miserable men in the camp for prisoners of war at Döberitz. No doubt the conditions under which they live are forced by a military necessity. Nevertheless, they are very miserable men.

" ' We would treat them better if we could,' said the guard who escorted me. ' But we cannot. We are doing the best we can.'

" I am inclined to credit that statement. Certain things show for themselves. These men are sleeping—200 to 500 to the tent—in horse tents which have been cast off by the German cavalry.

" These tents are very old. Some of them have been patched and thatched with torn and discoloured bits of canvas. The present camp is only a makeshift, intended to bridge over the time until the winter barracks shall be completed. By this time they may be housed in these permanent huts.

" Germany claims to hold 433,000 prisoners of war. The housing and feeding of so great a number must be a tremendous strain

* P.P. No. 44, encl. 4, p. 34.

upon resources drained by the necessities of war. Nevertheless, these 9,000 men at Döberitz are very miserable men.

" The chief item in their bill of discontent is the monotony. They have nothing, absolutely nothing, to do. It is true they are vermin-ridden. They have no way of keeping themselves clean. Some of them are not warmly clothed. They could bear with all these things if only they had something to do.

" ' They sing,'' said the guard. ' They sing " Tipperary." '

" ' One wouldn't think they would feel like singing,' was the comment.

" ' It is something to do,' said he.

" The plain truth is that the treatment of prisoners of war by the fighting nations is an international scandal. England holds prisoners, and France holds prisoners, and Russia holds prisoners, and so does Germany. For some reason no exchange can be arranged. Humanitarian ideas are no part of the war programme.

" One hears of battles in which no quarter is granted. There are stories of one side or the other refusing an armistice to permit the other to gather its wounded. Each side is desperately determined to win, and neither is counting the cost. So men must rust in prison camps until the struggle is over.

" No Chance to Bathe.

" We went into one of the long tents. A British soldier was sitting on his bed-roll, carefully examining the interior of his trousers. His long white legs were bare. When he saw us he hastily covered himself up and blushed.

" There are 9,000 men in the Döberitz camp, elbowing each other, sleeping two in a bed. Not one has had a bath since he was first brought to the camp. It isn't likely that one will have a bath while the war lasts. When winter comes, and they move into the permanent wooden barracks which have been provided for them, conditions must grow worse. They will be huddled about stoves then, and in the lack of proper clothing will not keep in the open air. Even now—

" ' Don't touch anything,' said the guard. ' You'll get 'em on you.'

" When a man can stand the torture no longer he is sent to the hospital. There he gets—not a bath—but a thorough daubing with a vermin-killing ointment. His clothes are disinfected. He is sent back to be reinhabited.

" Some of them do their best to keep clean. In the centre of the camp is a horse-trough, perhaps 50 feet long, into which water can be turned from a tap. It stands in the open air. Men who have money and can buy soap at the canteen wash their clothes in this trough. If they are particularly particular they strip themselves and take an ice-water bath. The fall and winter climate of northern Germany is very severe. We were shivering in our overcoats. But we saw half-a-dozen men naked to the waist, rubbing themselves down with water at the horse-trough.

" Döberitz prison camp is an hour's ride by motor from Berlin. It is a bare, bleak expanse of sandy soil, surrounded by a barbed-wire trocha. At one end is a slight elevation on which several old field pieces have been mounted behind a barbed-wire entanglement. The guards call it a fort.

" ' But I don't believe there is any ammunition for the guns,' said the escort. ' It is just what you call a bluff.'

" The bluff was needed at the outset, for the men fought among themselves. The Germans have carefully scrambled the nationalities, so that Russians and French and English are mingled in the tents. Early in the war the Allies didn't like each other. The men of each race thought the other two had not been doing their part in the war. So they fought it out along this line. When fighting became rioting, the guards came in and suppressed it. The fort was a great aid in restoring inter-racial peace.

" ' Seems to me a great many of the Englishmen are very pale,' I said to the guard. ' Do they get enough to eat? '

" He said they did, but that they didn't like it. The men receive a hunk of war bread, made of rye and potato flour, with a cup of tea in the morning and the same thing at night, with an occasional chunk of sausage added. The one hot meal of the day is at noon, when each gets a pannikin full of a soupy stew of cabbage and carrots and potatoes, or whatever other vegetable may be handy, plus some meat.

" ' The Russians like that soup,' said the guard. ' The Englishmen and Frenchmen do not. They are always complaining.'

" I saw that stew in the rough. Perhaps I was influenced by my dislike for cabbage and carrots, but it seemed to me it was a mighty unappetising mess. I began to understand why so many of the Tommies looked so pale. One Tommy stood near when the guard told of the stew. He said in an undertone: —

" ' I 'ad a sow. And even she wouldn't eat skilly.'

" The men sleep in pairs in the tents on straw ticks. When we were there it had been raining for days. The dirt floor of the tents was a mass of mud. The straw gave off a sour and musty odour. But the guards say that the animal heat of so many men sleeping under a single canvas roof keeps them warm. Perhaps that is true. It is very certain that the atmosphere in the tents in which the inhabitants were largely Russians was abominable. The English and French lashed back the tent flaps and ventilated the sleeping places during the day.

" It may be quite true that nothing better can be done for them under the circumstances. Nevertheless, these 9,000 are very miserable men."

The second is a report by Mr. Chandler Hale, of the United States Embassy, on the Isle of Man detention camp and the riot which took place there in November last.*

Mr. Hale left for Douglas on the night of the 23rd November, the date on which the riot in the Isle of Man detention camp was

* P.P. No. 47, p. 36.

reported in the press, and made a careful enquiry into the cause of the riot and an inspection of the camp. He reports as follows:—

"3,300 non-belligerent enemy aliens are interned at Douglas, consisting of 2,000 Germans and 1,300 Austrians and Hungarians. The camp is now somewhat crowded, but the authorities will transfer 1,000 men to another camp at Peel, on the other side of the island, as soon as accommodations there are ready for them—probably in a few weeks. At present 500 are housed in two large comfortable buildings, where each man has a bunk with mattress and three blankets. Other and similar huts are being erected for the rest of the prisoners who are now living in tents, each of which has a raised wooden flooring. The dietary is excellent. Breakfast, 1 pint porridge, 1¼ oz. syrup, 1 pint tea with sugar and milk, 8 oz. bread and ½ oz. margarine. Supper, 1 pint tea with sugar and milk, ½ oz. margarine and 8 oz. bread. Dinner, 20 oz. potatoes, 4 oz. bread, a green vegetable every other day and meat in following rotation: Sunday, ¼ lb. roast beef; Monday, stew; Tuesday, 6 to 8 oz. sausages; Wednesday, scouce made of meat, potatoes, and vegetables; Thursday, stew; Friday, sausages; Saturday, scouce. The men have their meals in a large glass-roofed, steam-heated, and electric lighted building, where 1,600 can eat at a time. The latrines and washing facilities are ample and very good, and are kept clean; there is hot and cold running water. As compared with Ruhleben or any other camp that I have visited in either country, conditions are very good. The riot started, it is alleged, as the result of bad potatoes. The authorities admit that one shipment proved wormeaten, and they were rejected after a few days. On the 18th November the men declared a hunger strike at dinner. The following day they ate their dinner without any complaint, and immediately after the withdrawal of the guards from the rooms, the prisoners suddenly, and evidently by pre-arrangement, started in to break up the tables, chairs, crockery, and everything they could lay their hands on. Upon the appearance of the guards, the rioters charged them armed with table legs and chairs. The guards fired one volley in the air, but it had no effect. Finally, and in self-protection, they fired a second round which resulted in the death of four Germans and one Austrian, and the wounding of nineteen others. I talked freely with the wounded and also with many others, and gathered that the prisoners were in the wrong and had only themselves to blame. One of the most intelligent men I talked with, a German, said that a considerable percentage of the men were a bad lot gathered in from the East of London, with several agitators amongst them who preached discontent and insubordination, which was really the direct cause for the trouble. I am satisfied this was so, as I saw the whole camp and every detail connected with it, and have nothing but commendation for its entire organisation and the kindly treatment accorded the prisoners by the Commandant and his subordinates."

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